

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicant has made all amendments to the Claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions in order to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. In particular, Claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 19-22, 40, 46 and 52 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 23 and 26 have been amended so as to incorporate limitations from the claims upon which these claims depended and thus become allowable in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claims 24, 25 and 27 have been amended to become dependent upon allowable Claim 23 and thus are now allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 23 is considered allowable. Finally, Claims 32 and 39 have been amended in the manner proposed by the Examiner to overcome the objections to these claims. In light of the fact that these amendments overcome all outstanding rejections and will place this application in condition for allowance, Applicants submit that the amendment should be entered, and an allowance should be issued.

In the Official Action, the Examiner considered Claims 2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-12, 16, 18, 28-30, 36-38, 41-45, 49-51 and 53-56 to be allowed. The Examiner also considered Claims 23 and 26 to be allowable upon amendment to include limitations of their base claims. This indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation, and Claims 23 and 26 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

The present amendments address all other outstanding objections and rejections in that without addressing the Examiner's arguments, Claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 19-22, 40, 46 and 52 have been canceled without prejudice in an effort to expedite the allowance in this application.

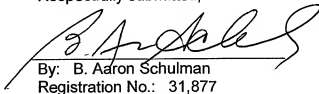
Finally, Claims 32 and 39 have been amended in such a manner as to overcome the Examiner's objections.

Accordingly, the present amendments will overcome all outstanding rejections and objections and when entered will place the application in condition for allowance.

Applicants thus submit that the present amendment should be entered, and that upon entrance of the amendment, the application will be placed in condition for immediate allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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